

# PROGRAMS

## *in profile*



Typically we devote this section to programs within the City of Redmond. This issue, however, we decided to profile a program that we consider to be part of the backbone of arts and culture in our community. The Redmond

Saturday of every month, published and aspiring spokenword performers show up at Victor's at 7 pm to sign up for a five minute slot. The house is usually packed by 7:30, when a featured reader from the diverse Puget Sound literary community headlines the evening. The event also includes a lively open mike session. Four times a year, the format changes to an "Island Style Slam,"\* at which \$3 buys impromptu poets three words, 25 minutes to write a poem that incorporates those three words, and the chance to win a portion of the kitty.

### RASP

#### Calendar of Events

RASP readings take place on the first Saturday evening of each month at Victor's Celtic Coffee Company, 7993 Gilman Street (just off the corner of Redmond Way and NE 164th Street).

All RASP readings include a featured reader. Signups for Open Mike are before and after the featured performance. Come early to sign up and get a seat! Readings start at 7:30 pm.

**October 2:** Kelley Eskridge  
Kelley Eskridge is the Tiptree and Nebula Award-nominated author of short fiction.

**November 6:** Allan Rousselle  
Allan Rousselle is a writer, public speaker, and satirist.

**December 4:** Island Style Slam (all ages)

Association of SPokenword (RASP), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in January 1997 to establish a vibrant literary community in Redmond.

RASP includes people of all ages who create and perform works of written and spoken art. RASP offers a variety of programs for amateur and professional writers and poets, as well as special programs for children, teens and seniors. All of the programs are organized by volunteers and supported by local organizations and businesses.

*\*A poetry slam is an event at which poets perform their work and are judged by members of the audience. Typically, the host or another organizer selects the judges, who are instructed to give scores based on the poet's content and performance.*

**Write Out Loud!:** This literary arts festival produced by RASP features writers and poets, workshops, and author appearances. The week-long event includes a poetry writing workshop, a celebration of young authors (grades 1-6), and an evening of food and poetry from different lands.

Perhaps the most successful of Write out Loud's! 2004 events was the first ever teen poetry workshop and slam at the



**RASP Reading Series:** The RASP Reading Series began at Victor's Coffee Company in Redmond as a way to gather poets and writers in a supportive environment. On the first



RASP is looking for individuals with administrative skills and a passion for the literary arts to join its Board of Directors. RASP is entering a period of exciting transition and growth, and the Board of Directors offers a tremendous opportunity for volunteers to help promote RASP and the literary arts to the Redmond community and impact the organization's development. If you are interested, email [info@rasp.cc](mailto:info@rasp.cc).

Old Fire House Teen Center in Redmond. The top three winners received prize money and gift certificates.

Write Out Loud! 2004 was substantially funded by the City of Redmond's Arts Commission, with in-kind contributions from Borders Books in Redmond Town Center, Friends of the Redmond Regional Library, and Kinko's Copies of Redmond.

**Poets in the Park:** The first of its kind, RASP's Poets in the Park conference took place last April at Marymoor Park's Clise Mansion. The event was a great success, with over 85 attendees and faculty participating in this new Eastside literary arts event for professional poets. Highlights included workshops by Peter Levitt, Sheila Bender, Elizabeth Austen, Max Gutmann, and Holly Hughes, and readings and panel participation by Sam Hamill, Madeline DeFrees, Peter Pereira, James Bertolino, and others. Kirkland's Parkplace Books organized a poetry bookfair. The event was made possible by a generous contribution from the Friends of Marymoor Park.

If you would like to learn more about RASP or Write Out Loud!, email [info@rasp.cc](mailto:info@rasp.cc) or visit the RASP website at [www.rasp.cc](http://www.rasp.cc). To learn more about Poets in the Park, visit [www.poetsinthepark.com](http://www.poetsinthepark.com).



## Welcome new neighbors



### New neighbors at Avondale Park

On August 3, Mayor Ives, Steve Norman of the King County Housing Authority and a representative from Senator Maria Cantwell's office joined other community members in celebration of the grand opening of Avondale Park, a new 61 unit transitional and emergency shelter housing development for homeless families. Located on the former Coast Guard property on Avondale Road NE, Avondale Park is operated by the Eastside Housing Association (EHA). In partnership with Redmond-based Friends of Youth and Hopelink, EHA helps homeless families and individuals transition to permanent housing. With an over 85% success rate, the program offers housing, life-skills and job skills training, childcare and parenting classes, and guidance in managing household finances. Residency for each household is limited to a maximum of two years while they learn the skills needed to find and keep permanent housing and end their cycle of homelessness. The City purchased the property in 1997 from the federal government with the intent to partner with EHA to provide this much needed housing on the Eastside. Kudos to EHA for completion of this wonderful asset to the community, and welcome to all of the new neighbors at Avondale Park.

*"For too many years, I've watched as the number of homeless – including children and youth – has increased. Avondale Park is a watershed time in addressing this crisis. Several things about this substantial effort to break the cycle of homelessness are remarkable: the cooperation between the social service partners that led to the founding of the Eastside Housing Association, the welcome reception from the surrounding community, and the excellence with which programs are being delivered. I am confident the residents of Avondale Park will have wonderful outcomes including safe, permanent housing, skills to obtain good employment, and a strong footing upon which to build successful families".*

*—Howard Finck, Executive Director, Friends of Youth*